

NEWS

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JAMES A. MCCLURE U.S. SENATE

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MCCLURE ACCUSES THE SOVIET UNION OF VIOLATING
ARMS CONTROL TREATY

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WASHINGTON -- U.S. Senator Jim McClure (R-ID) today charged the Soviet Union of violating the Threshold Test Ban Treaty (TTBT).

McClure documented the violation in a six page letter he delivered to President Reagan this afternoon.

"There are reliable reports of over 15 Soviet underground nuclear tests over 150 kilotons -- the limit set by the Threshold Test Ban Treaty," McClure said. "Of these violations," he continued, "there is a 95 percent probability that several are at military significant levels at or above 250 kilotons."

With almost certainty, McClure said, the smallest tests conducted by the Soviets were reportedly above the 150 kiloton threshold.

McClure pointed out that the recent violation is just one of many treaties the Soviets have violated in the past 50 years.

The Soviets, McClure explained, violated the SALT I Treaty, SALT II Treaty, the 1962 Kennedy-Khrushchev Agreement, the 1975 Biological and Toxic Weapons Convention, the 1925 Chemical

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Warfare Protocol, the Yalta Agreement of 1945, the Potsdam Agreement of 1945, the 1975 Helsinki Treaty on Human Rights and Collective Security in Central Europe, and the United Nation's Charter. McClure intends to elaborate further on each of these violations in subsequent statements.

"All previous Administrations," McClure said, "have stated that if the Soviets were caught violating even one arms control agreement, America would have to reassess its entire spectrum of negotiations and relations with the Soviet Union."

McClure said he was skeptical of Soviet intentions. In the letter to President Reagan, he asked: "What conclusions can be drawn about Soviet intentions, in light of the consistent pattern of Soviet arms cheating?"

Quoting Reagan's speech to the United Nations General Assembly on June 17, 1982, McClure said: "Simply collecting agreements will not bring peace. Agreements genuinely reinforce peace only when they are kept. Otherwise we are building a paper castle that will be blown away by the winds of war."

As far as America's national security, McClure emphasized that the best way to keep the peace is through deterrence and enforcement of Soviet compliance with existing arms control treaties. He said that he completely supported the President's initiative toward enhanced treaty verification, but noted that the objective should be enforcement of compliance rather than enhanced verification.

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